

Amendment is being filed to remove the multiple dependent claims to avoid the surcharge.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:

Robert G. Weilacher, Reg. No.20,531

1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, D.C. 20036 Telephone: (202) 659-2811

Facsimile: (202) 263-4329

January 18, 2002

9. A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 1.

11. (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 2.

12. (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 3.

13. (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 4.

14. (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 5.

9

. .

fu. Ų Ö ļ4

TÜ

A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the 15. (New) rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 6.

A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the 16 (New) rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 7.

17 (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 8.

9. A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in [any one of Claims 1 to 8] <u>Claim 1</u>.

AMENDED CLAIMS